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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,343	02/06/2004	Paul R. Sharps	1613370-0046 CON	6467

7590

06/17/2004

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EXAMINER

DIAMOND, ALAN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1753

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/773,343

Applicant(s)

SHARPS ET AL.

Examiner

Alan Diamond

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner...  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02062004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: reference sign 111 in Figure 1; reference sign 203 in Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C; and reference sign 808 in Figure 8. Corrected drawing sheets, or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Specification***

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In the continuity data in the paragraph beginning at line 2 of page 1, the term "now U.S. Patent 6,680,432" should be inserted after "October 24, 2001". If Serial No. 10/280,592 issues as a patent, the patent number should be inserted after "October 24, 2002" in said paragraph. Appropriate correction is required.

***Suggested Claim Language by the Examiner***

3. In claim 1, at line 3, it is suggested that the term "a first, second, and third subcells" be changed to "first, second, and third subcells". In other words, it is suggested that "a" be deleted from said term.

4. In claim 1, at line 7, it is suggested that the term "a p-type, i-type, and n-type layers" be changed to "p-type, i-type, and n-type layers". In other words, it is suggested that "a" be deleted from said term.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 9-64397 A, herein referred to as JP '397.

JP '397's solar module has a substrate (307); a multijunction solar cell (301) having first (304A, 305A, 306A) and second (304B, 305B, 306B) subcells; a lateral conduction layer (303); a bypass diode (302) having p-type, i-type and n-type layers (305D, 304D, 307D); and contact layers (308, 308D). As seen in JP '397's Figures 5 to 9, JP '397's multijunction solar cell can have first, second and third subcells. JP '397 teaches that there can be two or more p-i-n junctions, i.e., two or more subcells having p-i-n junctions (see paragraphs 0021 and 0025). JP '397 teaches the limitations of the instant claim other than the difference which is discussed below.

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JP '397 does not specifically teach that its multijunction solar cell in Figure 3 can have three subcells instead of two subcells. However, as noted in the immediately preceding paragraph, JP '397 teaches that there can be two or more p-i-n junctions, i.e., two or more subcells having p-i-n junctions; and as seen in JP '397's Figures 5 to 9, JP '397's multijunction solar cell can have first, second and third subcells. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have prepared the solar module in JP '397's Figure 3 using first, second and third subcells, instead of first and second subcells, because JP '397 teaches that there can be two or more p-i-n junctions, i.e., two or more subcells having p-i-n junctions; and as seen in JP '397's Figures 5 to 9, JP '397's multijunction solar cell can have first, second and third subcells.

### ***Double Patenting***

7. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

8. Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2-36 of

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copending Application No. 10/280,593. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because, for example, claim 6 in said copending application is anticipatory of instant claim 1 and specifies that the substrate is germanium. Claim 2 of said copending application is also anticipatory of instant claim 1, and the additional well in the multijunction structure of said claim 2 is not excluded by instant claim 1.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

### ***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 2002/0040727, US 2002/0164834, US 2003/0140962, US 6,680,432, JP 60-160181, WO 99/62125, and GB 2346010 are hereby made of record.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan Diamond whose telephone number is 571-272-1338. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

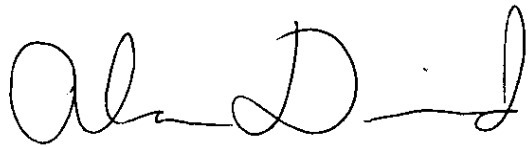
For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alan Diamond  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1753

Alan Diamond  
June 4, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Diamond', written in a cursive style.